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QUOTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WISTAR INSTITUTE

The publication of five important biological journals under the direct control of the Wistar Institute of Anatomy of the University of Pennsylvania has attracted widespread attention among anatomists and zoologists of the country. The step is significant, not so much because the institute has acquired five well-established biological journals, but because it marks an important advance in the cooperation, so much talked about recently, among institutions which consider it their duty to devote some of their best energies to the advancement of human knowledge.

The Wistar Institute began its career as a publishing institution by the distribution of Bulletin No. 1, which was a three-page leaflet setting forth some of the plans the institute proposed to follow in promoting anatomical science. This was in 1905. At the close of 1908 the institute is publishing five journals, with a combined yearly output of about 3,000 pages. Several of these journals are self-supporting, while others incur a considerable yearly deficit. The institute has been able to assume the entire financial responsibility of these publications, without encroaching upon its regular income devoted to its museum and research work, through the efforts and enthusiasm of Dr. Horace Jayne. Doctor Jayne, who is in charge of the newly created department of publication, has done much to improve the journals, increase the subscription lists and has been untiring in his efforts to put the department upon a successful working basis. No similar combination of biological journals has ever been attempted in this country, and the Wistar Institute is to be congratulated upon the success attained in this new venture.

The first journal acquired by the Wistar Institute was the *Journal of Morphology*. Founded in 1887 by Professor C. O. Whitman,

this journal has completed eighteen volumes, which are esteemed both at home and abroad for their valuable scientific contents and the excellence of book-making. In 1903, for lack of funds, it temporarily suspended publication. . . .

Following the lead of the *Journal of Morphology* came the *Journal of Comparative Neurology and Psychology*, the *American Journal of Anatomy*, the *Anatomical Record* and the *Journal of Experimental Zoology*. These journals were assigned to the Wistar Institute because of its efforts to bring about a mutually beneficial cooperation which would lead to greater scientific results with the same outlay of time and money.

They comprise nearly all the independent technical journals in their respective sciences. Their editors are leading men in the branches they represent, and the articles published are the best results from American laboratories.

They represent no school or exclusive band of workers, nor any group of self-centered laboratories. On the contrary, the chiefest aim is to obtain and retain for them an eminently national character, and encourage through the highest grade of biological research the efforts and cooperation of investigators wherever found. . . .

These journals have been and will always be a source of pride to American scholarship, and they are indispensable to those who desire to keep abreast of the times. The effort to increase their circulation is principally to put the original work done in America before as large a number of students as possible, here and abroad—that all may share in this movement for a more vigorous life in these branches.

The chief idea, which the Wistar Institute is following in publishing these journals, is to maintain the editorial management, so far as possible, outside of its own staff. The reasons are evident. The results thus far are most gratifying, and there is every reason to expect a very great increase in the efficiency and value of the undertaking.

The work of this department of the Wistar Institute alone brings the institute and the University of Pennsylvania into relations with nearly every laboratory in the world where anatomy and zoology are studied.—*Old Penn, Weekly Review of the University of Pennsylvania.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Modern Electrical Theory. By NORMAN ROBERT CAMPBELL, M.A. Pp. xii + 332. Cambridge University Press. 1907.

The past fifteen years have witnessed the erection, upon the foundation of Maxwell's theory, of a great structure of theoretical and experimental knowledge which, for some time to come, will undoubtedly occupy a very large place in the interest and attention of students of physical science. Maxwell's theory was, in the main, the work of a single man of genius; it was general in its point of view, was little concerned with details, and thus possessed a kind of obvious unity which made it easy of comprehension when once the initial difficulties had been overcome. The modern development of electrical theory, on the other hand, has had to deal in great detail with a large number of complex phenomena of apparently diverse character. What is now called the electron theory is the result of the labors of many men, working in different branches of physics and chemistry, with various points of view, and often without recognition of the general, theoretical bearing of their results.

Under these conditions a work like the one before us is of especial value and utility. The author has chosen his material wisely and combined it with skill; he has given a simple and perspicuous account of the theory and of its application to the many and diverse phenomena which have been brought within its scope. The introduction of unnecessary details has been avoided, and although there are inevitably a great many trees, the forest is still distinctly visible. The perspective is thoroughly good and the point of view is not that of the popularizer of second-hand knowledge. Mr. Campbell has worked for many years in the Cavendish Laboratory, which for two generations has been the chief center of progress in electrical science; he has made important contributions to the theory of